CLAIMS

1. A portable phone comprising:

a position detector that detects geographical position of the portable phone; and

a processor coupled to the position detector that determines whether or not to ring the portable phone based on the detected geographical position of the portable phone when a call is received by the portable phone.

2. The portable phone of claim 1 wherein the position detector comprises a global positioning system (GPS) detector.

3. The portable phone of claim 1 wherein the processor further determines characteristics of a ring signal based on the detected geographical position of the portable phone when the processor determines to ring the portable phone.

4. The portable phone of claim 3 wherein the characteristics of the ring signal include volume, type and tone of the ring signal.

5. The portable phone of claim 4 wherein the type of the ring signal includes an audible ring and a vibration ring.

6. The portable phone of claim 1 wherein the processor does not ring the portable phone if the portable phone is in a predefined region.

7. The portable phone of claim 1 wherein the processor rings the portable phone with increased volume if the portable phone is in a predefined region.

8. The portable phone of claim 1 wherein the processor rings the portable phone with a different ring tone if the portable phone is in a predefined region.

9. The portable phone of claim 1 further comprising a dial mechanism for selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact, such that when a user selects the stored text, the dial mechanism dials a first stored telephone number when the portable phone is in a first defined region and dials a second stored telephone number when the portable phone is in a second defined region.

10. The portable phone of claim 1 further comprising a dial mechanism for selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact, such that when a user selects the stored text, the dial mechanism dials a first stored telephone number and communicates the detected geographical position of the portable phone with the call to the first stored telephone number.

11. A portable phone comprising:

a position detector that detects geographical position of the portable phone; and

a dial mechanism coupled to the position detector for selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact, such that when a user selects the stored text, the dial mechanism dials a first stored telephone number when the portable phone is in a first defined region and dials a second stored telephone number when the portable phone is in a second defined region.

12. A portable phone comprising:

a position detector that detects geographical position of the portable phone; and

a dial mechanism coupled to the position detector for selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact, such that when a user selects the stored text, the dial mechanism dials a first stored telephone number and communicates the detected geographical position of the portable phone with the call to the first stored telephone number.

13. A telephone system comprising:

a portable phone that includes a position detector that detects geographical position of the portable phone;

a defined geographical region that is assigned a telephone number;

a processor coupled to the portable phone that determines from the position detector the geographical position of the portable phone, and that rings the portable phone when the assigned telephone number of the defined region is called if the portable phone is within the defined geographical region.

14. The telephone system of claim 13 wherein the position detector comprises a global positioning system (GPS) detector.

15. The telephone system of claim 13 wherein the processor does not ring the portable phone when the assigned telephone number of the defined region is called and the portable phone is outside the defined geographical region.

16. The telephone system of claim 13 wherein the processor delivers a voice message when the assigned telephone number of the defined region is called and the portable phone is outside the defined geographical region.

17. A method for controlling the operation of a portable phone, the method comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a position detector with the portable phone that detects geographical position of the portable phone;

(B) detecting the geographical position of the portable phone using the position detector;

(C) determining whether or not to ring the portable phone based on the detected geographical position of the portable phone when a call is received by the portable phone.

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18. The method of claim 17 wherein the position detector comprises a global positioning system (GPS) detector.

19. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of determining characteristics of a ring signal based on the detected geographical position of the portable phone when step (C) determines to ring the portable phone.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the characteristics of the ring signal include volume, type and tone of the ring signal.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the type of the ring signal includes an audible ring and a vibration ring.

22. The method of claim 17 wherein step (C) does not ring the portable phone if the portable phone is in a predefined geographical region.

23. The method of claim 17 wherein step (C) rings the portable phone with increased volume if the portable phone is in a predefined geographical region.

24. The method of claim 17 wherein step (C) rings the portable phone with a different ring tone if the portable phone is in a predefined geographical region.

25. The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact;

dialing a first stored telephone number corresponding to the desired telephone contact when the portable phone is in a first defined region; and

dialing a second stored telephone number corresponding to the desired telephone contact when the portable phone is in a second defined region.

26. The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact;

dialing a first stored telephone number that corresponds to the desired telephone contact; and

communicating the detected geographical position of the portable phone with the call to the first stored telephone number.

27. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of routing the call using the communicated geographical position of the portable phone to a second telephone that is the closest of a predefined group of telephones in physical proximity to the portable phone.

28. A method for making a call on a portable phone, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a position detector with the portable phone that detects geographical position of the portable phone;

detecting the geographical position of the portable phone using the position detector;

selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact;

dialing a first stored telephone number corresponding to the desired telephone contact when the portable phone is in a first defined region; and

dialing a second stored telephone number corresponding to the desired telephone contact when the portable phone is in a second defined region.

29. A method for making a call on a portable phone, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a position detector with the portable phone that detects geographical position of the portable phone;

detecting the geographical position of the portable phone using the position detector;

selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact;

dialing a first stored telephone number that corresponds to the desired telephone contact; and

communicating the detected geographical position of the portable phone with the call to the first stored telephone number.

30. A method for making a call on a portable phone, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a position detector with the portable phone that detects geographical position of the portable phone;

detecting the geographical position of the portable phone using the position detector;

assigning a telephone number to a defined geographical region;

ringing the portable phone when the assigned telephone number of the defined region is called if the portable phone is within the defined geographical region.

31. The telephone system of claim 30 wherein the position detector comprises a global positioning system (GPS) detector.

32. The telephone system of claim 30 further comprising the step of not ringing the portable phone when the assigned telephone number of the defined region is called and the portable phone is outside the defined geographical region.

33. The telephone system of claim 30 further comprising the step of delivering a voice message when the assigned telephone number of the defined region is called and the portable phone is outside the defined geographical region.

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